



To: Distribution

From: Loran Frazier, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Highways and Engineering Division

Date: January 30, 2007

Subject: Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

This memo is to follow up my verbal instructions and provide guidance on developing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) on our highways. These systems are used to improve safety and increase efficiency on Montana's transportation system through cost effective deployment of intelligent devices. There are a variety of items that can fall under the ITS realm. An intelligent device is any technology that interacts dynamically with the transportation system user.

To assist in exploring the opportunities and utilizing ITS applications in our state, I am requesting that an ITS discussion occurs for every project and a section be added to all milestone reports, i.e., preliminary field review, alignment review, and scope of work. Not all projects will have an ITS component. For these projects, the reports should document that the utilization of ITS solutions to increase the efficiency of traffic is not feasible.

Some judgment will be needed to determine what project type should include ITS applications. Any major rehabilitation, reconstruction, new construction or safety project should explore the use of this technology. As the project level drops down to pavement preservation, the likelihood of including ITS technologies diminishes. The current transportation funding (SAFETEA-LU) has no funds specifically designated for ITS applications. However, as opportunities arise, these systems can be implemented through our construction program.

There is a large spectrum of items that can be considered ITS. Examples of rural ITS applications that could be included in projects are message warnings signs activated by vehicles, variable message sign, radar speed display sign, etc. For urban areas, ITS applications can consist of video detection at traffic signals, traffic signal pre-emption for emergency vehicles, etc.

As opportunities arise, training will be provided on the different types of ITS applications. The Traffic and Safety Bureau can also be consulted with in the determination of an applicable ITS component for a project.

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